

VZCZCXRO3588  
OO RUEHPB  
DE RUEHWL #0302 1030600  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 130600Z APR 07  
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4140  
INFO RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE 4814  
RUEHPB/AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY IMMEDIATE 0649  
RUEHSV/AMEMBASSY SUVA IMMEDIATE 0587  
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 000302

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP/FO AND EAP/ANP  
DEFENSE FOR OSD/ISD JESSICA POWERS  
PACOM FOR J01E/J2/J233/J5/SJFHQ

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/13/2017

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [FJ](#) [NZ](#)

SUBJECT: GNZ WORRIES BAINIMARAMA IS IN A HOLE AND STILL  
DIGGING

REF: SUVA 211

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission David J. Keegan,  
for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) The GNZ worries that interim PM Bainimarama is increasingly fragile and his actions risk throwing the country into armed conflict. Heather Riddell, Director of the Pacific Division, calls Bainimarama's measures restricting the Great Council of Chiefs (GCC) "loopy." Bainimarama has now cut himself off from Fiji's traditional power base. This will circumscribe his support base and will add to perceptions that he is running a Fijian Indian agenda. Riddell observes it seems unlikely Bainimarama will be able to dig himself out of this hole, and he may become more desperate as a result.

¶2. (C) While the GCC is ridden with factions and some Fijians dislike it, most will be shocked by Bainimarama's actions. Riddell is particularly concerned that the measures may make an intra-military reaction more likely, and the result could be violent mutiny and other bloodshed.

¶3. (C) Comment. While we are not in a position to assess MFAT's concern over possible mutiny and bloodshed, New Zealand's analysis and predictions on Fiji have proven exceptionally reliable over the past few months.

McCormick